CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for contract-based aggregation, comprising:
2 (a) receiving records indicative of network events, wherein the records are
3   received in at least one aggregator for the purpose of aggregating the records;
4 (b) identifying contracts associated with the records; and
5 (c) aggregating the records based at least in part on the contracts using the at
6   least one aggregator.

1 2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the contracts are between a
2   customer and a service provider operating the aggregator.

1 3. The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the contracts are for different
2   levels of services to be provided to the customer.

1 4. The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the contracts are for different
2   services to be provided to the customer.

1 5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein a contract identifier is included as
2   a component of the records.

1 6. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein a speed with which the records are
2   aggregated is based on the contracts.

1 7. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein an amount of data processed while
2   the records are aggregated is based on the contracts.

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1   8.   The method as recited in claim 7, wherein the data is selected from the group

2   consisting of a customer identifier, a service identifier, a source identifier, a

3   destination identifier, a records size identifier, and a quality of service

4   identifier.

1   9.   The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising separating the

2   records into separate groups based on the contracts, and aggregating the

3   records of each group using a separate aggregator.

1   10.   The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising aggregating the

2   records to generate separate aggregations using a single aggregator.

1   11.   A computer program product for contract-based aggregation, comprising:

2   (a)   computer code for receiving records indicative of network events, wherein

3   the records are received in at least one aggregator for the purpose of

4   aggregating the records;

5   (b)   computer code for identifying contracts associated with the records; and

6   (c)   computer code for aggregating the records based at least in part on the

7   contracts using the at least one aggregator.

1   12.   The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the contracts

2   are between a customer and a service provider operating the aggregator.

1   13.   The computer program product as recited in claim 12, wherein the contracts

2   are for different levels of services to be provided to the customer.

1   14.   The computer program product as recited in claim 12, wherein the contracts

2   are for different services to be provided to the customer.

1   15.   The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein a contract

2   identifier is included as a component of the records.

1   16.   The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein a speed with

2   which the records are aggregated is based on the contracts.

1   17.   The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein an amount of

2   data processed while the records are aggregated is based on the contracts.

1   18.   The computer program product as recited in claim 17, wherein the data is

2   selected from the group consisting of a customer identifier, a service

3   identifier, a source identifier, a destination identifier, a records size identifier,

4   and a quality of service identifier.

1   19.   The computer program product as recited in claim 11, and further comprising

2   computer code for separating the records into separate groups based on the

3   contracts, and computer code for aggregating the records of each group using

4   a separate aggregator.

1   20.   The computer program product as recited in claim 11, and further comprising

2   computer code for aggregating the records to generate separate aggregations

3   using a single aggregator.

1   21.   A system for contract-based aggregation, comprising:

2   (a)   logic for receiving records indicative of network events, wherein the records

3   are received in at least one aggregator for the purpose of aggregating the

4   records;

5   (b)   logic for identifying contracts associated with the records; and

6   (c)   logic for aggregating the records based at least in part on the contracts using

7   the at least one aggregator.

1   22.   A method for contract-based aggregation, comprising:

2   (a)   receiving records indicative of network events, wherein the records include a

3   customer identifier, a service identifier, a source identifier, a destination

4   identifier, a records size identifier, and a quality of service identifier;

5   (b)   identifying contracts associated with the records, wherein the contracts

6   indicate an amount of aggregation to be performed, a speed with which the

7   aggregation is to be performed, and a group with which the records are

8   associated;

9   (c)   separating the records into the separate groups based on the contracts; and

10   (d)   aggregating the records of each group using a separate aggregator;

11   (e)   wherein the records are aggregated a certain amount at a certain speed based

12   at least in part on the contracts using the associated aggregator.

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